

Basketball Bears show two sides in season-opening wins

Lacklustre Friday and impressive Saturday create inconsistent weekend sweep

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

The fans at the Main Gym this past weekend were introduced to a Bears basketball team that at time looked very green and at others came off golden. The University of Alberta men's basketball team had a rather dichotomous weekend which saw them narrowly escape with an 84-76 win over the Thompson River University WolfPack on Friday night, but follow it up on Saturday with an emphatic 92-59 victory over the Fraser Valley Cascades.

Playing without starting point guard CG Morrison, who was suffering from concussion symptoms after being attacked, along with teammate Gary Pelton, on Whyte Avenue last weekend, the Bears looked like two entirely different teams in the two games. After an uncharacteristically sloppy performance on Friday and the exact opposite Saturday, the Bears should consider themselves fortunate to have come out of this weekend's action with both victories.

"I think the guys were disappointed with themselves [Friday night]," Bears head coach Don Horwood admitted. "You know, we only won by eight in a game that we probably should've won by 20 or 25, and we feel that we just, overall, didn't play very well."

Alberta found themselves only up by two points at the half against TRU,

thanks in large part to an eleven-point first-half performance from guard Alex Steele.

"At [Friday night's] game, everything felt a little bit rushed," forward Scott Gordon explained. "Our guys were just starting to come down, but we weren't quite running our plays as well as we usually do, and for our defence—and, pretty much, overall—the effort just wasn't there."

"All of the rookies that we were playing with were just banging threes, and so, overall, I think that the team aspect was definitely there."

SCOTT GORDON,
GOLDEN BEARS FORWARD

After Friday's near-debacle, Horwood looked for ways to both fire his team up and still allow them to pace themselves, so that a similar performance wouldn't be seen the following night.

"We had a shoot-around for the guys after Friday's game and, you know, I certainly felt for them," Horwood said. "We're better than that, and we could've played better than that. I thought we had really

consistent play from most of our players [Saturday night]—they came out ready to play."

The Bears appeared to have plenty of jump against UCFV in both halves, accented by a number of strong individual performances, including guard Andrew Parker—whose questionable technical foul in the first half for hanging onto the rim a bit too long, seemed to spark both the team and the crowd—and Scott Gordon, who put up a game-high 16 points and eight boards.

"I just think that, overall, the team played really well together," Gordon said. "We ran our plays, we executed on defence—which was a big help—and everyone was just shooting well. All of the rookies that we were playing with were just banging threes, and so, overall, I think that the team aspect was definitely there, which was the most important thing tonight."

Alberta ended up leading the Cascades in almost every statistical category—offensive and defensive—shooting .547 from the field and adding 18 assists and 16 steals to near-double UCFV.

"They finished a lot better than we did," Fraser Valley head coach Tom Antil said. "Tonight, we were, for certain, lacking in experience at this level. You know, we're a young team in this league, and we were given a lesson in patience, and a lesson in finishing up what you start."

THE PEP RALLY

Written by Paul Owen

Pandas Soccer

The Pandas soccer team followed up a second-place Canada West regular season finish with a disappointing weekend in Regina at the conference playoffs. With a bye into the semifinals, the Pandas took on the UBC Thunderbirds but came out slowly and wound up with a 2-0 loss. This wouldn't have been a disaster since three teams from Canada West will make nationals, except top-ranked Victoria—the national hosts and one of those three teams—also lost in the semifinals. Alberta beat UVic for bronze, but it didn't matter as UBC, Trinity Western and Victoria will all be advancing to the national championships and the Pandas will be left to cry into their bronze medals.

I'd accuse UVic of throwing their semifinal against TWU in order to make sure that the three BC teams made nationals, but the Bears soccer team put in a similar shit-tastic performance over the weekend, so I'm chalking this one up to neither team having anything to play for.

Pandas Volleyball

It must be nice to open a volleyball season against Brandon and Regina because despite facing the closest thing they've had to a rebuilding year in a decade, the volley Pandas have looked like national champs in quickly dispatching their eastern rivals in their first two weekend series.

After sweeping the Bobcats last week to open their season at home, the Pandas put on a similar display this weekend in the Queen city as they put down the Cougars. In Friday night's 3-0 victory, Alberta didn't allow the Cougars to score 20 points in any sets, while Saturday took

only one set longer as the Pandas reeled off a 3-1 victory. The ease of Alberta's success is even more shocking when you consider that Regina was the fifth-ranked team in CIS.

Bears Volleyball

The defending national runner-ups continued their dominating attempt to prove that despite losing five starters they are still one of the top teams in Canada with a pair of straight-set victories in Regina. The Cougars stunk worse than the Wascana in both losses, coming close in only one set all weekend.

Pandas Hockey

I owe *Manitoban* sports editor Romer Bautista an apology. When he informed me that the Pandas had lost 4-2 to the Manitoba Bisons on Friday, I called him a liar and directed a string of profanity in his direction. After all, Alberta has the most dominant women's hockey program in CIS, and I didn't even know the Bisons women played hockey until checking the schedule last week. Anyways, the Pandas rebounded with a 4-1 victory on Saturday night to move to 7-1-0 on the season. It was also the Bisons' first ever win over Alberta.

Swimming

In an upset to end all upsets, the Pandas swim team defeated the Calgary Dinos in a meet in Calgary this weekend. Of course, the top nine swimmers from the perennial silver medallist Swimmasauruses were in Vancouver for a meet against perenial better-than-Calgaryists UBC, so it takes a little bit of the thrill of victory away. The men also held close, losing to the Dinos by a mere five points. Lethbridge once again proved they can't swim by finishing a very distant third in both sexes. Is there any sport that the 'Horns are good at?



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ERINNEFENWICK

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE *The Double Inconstancy* is as steamy as it is comedic.

A constant pleaser

The Double Inconstancy might be chaotic, but it's a well-crafted performance

The Double Inconstancy

Directed by Marianne Copithorne
Starring Meredith Bailey, Katherine Gorham, Alana Hawley, Jeffrey Olynek, Stafford Perry and Paul Welch
Runs 2-11 November
Studio Theatre

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Have you ever wondered what *The Princess Bride* might have been like if Wesley was a bit of an ass and Humperdink wasn't quite as bad as he seemed? What about if true love wasn't necessarily found by the poor farm boy? Well, if you answered yes to any of the above, *The Double Inconstancy* is the perfect place to answer a few "what ifs?"

Translated from Marivaux's original French play by Nicholas Wright, the story concerns two bumpkins in love—the adorable but clumsy Silvia (Meredith Bailey), and the practical but oblivious Harlequin (Paul Welch). The Prince of the land (Stafford Perry), who's required by law to marry one of his subjects, spies Silvia while on a hunting trip, and uses his princely authority to whisk her away, against her will, to his palace to become his bride.

This Prince, however, doesn't operate a pit of despair, and employs a pair of devious sisters (Alana Hawley as the manipulative Flaminia, Katherine Gorham as crass Lissette) instead of a six-fingered man. Although he admires Silvia enough to refrain from

meeting her in person—that is, except when he's disguised as a common soldier—or from banning Harlequin from the palace altogether, he's not above ordering his minions to try and maneuver, cajole and trick Silvia and Harlequin into falling in love with other people.

While this may sound like an ordinary romantic comedy with rather stock characters, the setting ultimately complicates the narrative. The Prince rules over a very decadent, superficial and gossipy court, and as such, Silvia and Harlequin, the supposedly innocent country couple, find themselves grappling with their own demons of greed, pride, lust and vindictiveness, as Flaminia, having insinuated herself into their lives as a "friend," alternately rouses Silvia's vanity and seduces Harlequin.

Marianne Copithorne's direction makes apt use of the play's interesting conflict between wordy, complex dialogue and broad, simplistic and obvious slapstick humour. The visual absurdity and wild gestures—mostly from the Hawley and Welch, the comedic stand-outs of the production—relax the audience while the tricky wordplay and wicked line delivery—again, mostly from Hawley as the splendidly catty Flaminia—simultaneously demand the audience's close attention.

The play is twisted even more off-kilter by the truly bizarre but effective set design of Guido Tondino. Composed of a forest of orderly rows of green globe lanterns propped on

foot-high poles, the actors weave in and around them as the globes flash or light up in accordance with the characters' emotions. The clever design creates for boundaries and setting, while allowing freedom from walls or doors.

Despite the otherworldly aspect of the set, the costuming leaves a little to be desired. An uneven mixture of towering glowing wigs and veils with thigh-high boots, patches and handkerchief skirts, they contribute to an overall disheveled, disorganized look, which seems to contradict the characters' assertions that the Prince's court is a parody of 18th century French style. Instead, it looks like someone raided the Tickle Trunk and my 16-year-old sister's closet and mashed the looks together.

The performances are, for the most part, top-notch. As mentioned before, Alana Hawley as Flaminia and Paul Welch as Harlequin steal the show. Hawley's flouncing, diva theatrics are perfectly suited to Welch's delightfully ironic whining. Meredith Bailey pouts and stomps adequately enough as *The Double Inconstancy*'s girl-next-door, although she seems less willing to improvise with her character as Hawley and Welch do. Stafford Perry as the Prince is also guilty of playing what should have been a complex character a little too eagerly straight.

The Double Inconstancy, nonetheless, is a clever, visually creative and entertaining production about the fickle nature of true love.

A Swift rise from indie obscurity to notable musician

Ember Swift

With Ann Vriend and The Digs
Friday, 10 November at 8pm
The Powerplant

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Even though she's been making music as an independent artist for nearly a decade, Ontario-based Ember Swift feels like she's pretty well known—and not just in Canada.

"We do more than half of our shows in the States," Swift says over the phone from Massachusetts. "We're trying to build a following of certain areas and nurturing a following of other areas. I've been touring consistently since 1997 and full-time since around 1999, so I've been on the road for six, seven years, full-time."

Swift's career in the US has even gotten one of her songs, "Est Elle Là," played on the TV show *The L-Word*. The singer-songwriter couldn't be more appreciative of the exposure, and has nothing but good things to say about the show, which centers on a group of lesbians living in Los Angeles.

"I would want my music on that show, for sure," Swift says without hesitation. "It's an amazing, progressive show. It's promoting acceptance and diversity. I totally believe in that."

Aside from the States, Swift also has a following in Australia, where she



recorded her first live DVD last year and recently finished the release tour for her ninth album, *The Dirty Pulse*, in which many of the songs deal with social issues such as urban isolation.

"When a lot of people live in a really compressed area—in order to try and get any sense of privacy—they often don't want to talk to each other," Swift explains. "A lot of times, in apartment buildings, people don't know the names of the people who they share walls with. It's just the idea of trying to find our own space in these crowded conditions that creates this isolation."

However, *Dirty Pulse* wasn't made with a theme in mind. There are songs about the mining industry, as well as songs about ten-pin bowling. Swift just writes whatever she feels like writing, and is also well-rounded in her musical tastes.

"I like all kinds of music—classical music and jazz and funk, and I'm a big fan of a lot of Canadian artists," she says. "I love artists like Joni Mitchell, Bruce Colburn and Kinnie Starr."

Talking with Swift, it's hard not to notice that she often uses the term "artists." Her beliefs in artist ownership and control are the driving

forces behind her label, Few'll Ignite Sound, which provides resources and assistance to other music artists, but doesn't sign them.

"[Few'll Ignite Sound] is just offering people the information they need in order to get their careers going," Swift explains. "They can realize that someone else has done a lot of this research and benefit from that."

With her label, Swift provides information sessions, workshops, and an online database containing records of various contacts such as venues, festivals, newspapers and radio stations.

But for now, Swift is heading back to Canada to promote her new album, and she speaks with excitement about her return to Alberta, in particular.

"It's been a long time. We used to come to Edmonton—and Calgary—very regularly," Swift quickly adds with a laugh after having made the mistake earlier of referring to Edmonton as Calgary, and apologizing for the mix-up by joking that she can't think of one of the Albertan cities without thinking of the other.

"I think it's been closer to two years since we've been there and I'm really looking forward to going back."

K-Os a hip-hop bucket of boredom



K-Os

Atlantis: Hymns for Disco
EMI Canada
www.k-osmusic.com

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It would appear that K-Os is back with his signature sound, for his new album, *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco*, keeps with the smoothness that makes even most uptight person you know start to tap their toes a little.

K-Os' standard hip-hop is paired with piano, trumpet and saxophone, giving the disc a classier sound. K-Os' vocals have the same flair and style as in all his previous hits, but he shows his versatility on slower tracks like "The Rain," on which he croons with to his very best. Notably on the album is K-Os' duet with Sam Roberts on the track "Valhalla," which is laid-back, providing an epic air that makes it suitable for long drives.

On the whole, K-Os keeps a strong hold on his usual party flavour. *Atlantis* is a lot more chilled out than most casual listeners would expect from the man who brought them "Crabucketit," but it's still jazzy and fun.

K-Os

With Magneta Lane
Friday, 10 November at 8pm
The Starlite Room

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In Kurt Cobain's famous ode to the pungent aroma of the modern adolescent's soul, he sang, "Here we are now, entertain us," as a statement on the masses and their need to be constantly stimulated.

While the boredom of the average person is a powerful force used to drive sales in the music business, it can also be an important motivating tool for the actual creation of music. Toronto hip-hopper K-Os explains how he used such tedium to go in a different direction on his new album, *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco*, as well as to spur innovation in his musical career in general.

"A lot of these things that happen to me just stem from being bored," K-Os, born Kheaven Brereton, says over the phone. "I'm just trying to excite myself, have fun and try something new."

Atlantis saw K-Os moving away from the tone of his award-winning 2004 release *Joyful Rebellion*, which commented significantly on the hip-hop culture. While he still exposes feelings and statements on this culture in his album, K-Os says that he's paid more attention to his own hip-hop individuality, and that as far as his music goes, the broad social and musical commentaries were a part of the past.

"I just got tired of talking about



the same old things over and over, like the state of hip-hop or the state of the world," K-Os says. "I feel like hip-hop is inside of me and is more like a law or rulebook or credo, but I had to talk about it for a while to realize that. It lives in me as an attitude and as a spirit, and I still love hip-hop, but I don't think it's my job to say that this is or isn't hip-hop. I've done that already and it gets really boring to pontificate and claim you know it all about music."

Rather than comment on the industry as a whole, K-Os says that his current focus is making connections with different artists.

"[The industry] is more about getting to know people," he explains. "I always want to be working with

someone who creates a dialogue. I think we've all had one conversation with friends or people we've known and been like 'Wow!' So that dialogue is something I love to be a part of."

Clearly working on these interpersonal connections in the music business, *Atlantis* features K-Os collaborating with several prominent Canadian artists, including Sam Roberts and Buck 65. As well, a side project last year saw K-Os working with the CBC Orchestra on a song entitled "Burning To Shine," a time of personal growth that he was excited to talk about.

"That was a living experience, [to work with] guys who study music, look at the charts and for the first time play something and know exactly how

to play it," he recalls. "That's amazing to me; banging on keyboards, strumming a guitar once or twice and putting it on a computer to make something out of it. To see their viewpoints or feel their viewpoints, it made me a smarter musician hopefully, and definitely a smarter music maker."

This variety of different episodes and opportunities in his career influence the ever-changing, genre-mixing style that K-Os has come to achieve. While he may find inspiration in boredom, he sees an exciting musical future ahead.

"[My style] will keep changing, as long as I keep growing as an individual," K-Os explains. "Hopefully new things will keep being brought to the table."

Making Comics draws on simplicity

Making Comics

Written by Scott McCloud
Published by HarperCollins
On sale now

MIKE KENDRICK
Design and Production Editor

Any aspiring artist knows that the best way into the world of drawing is to pick up a pencil and start making lines on a page. It doesn't take a lot of experience, and there's a virtual plethora of instructional materials out there for all levels of skill.

Perhaps the most daunting task for a newbie cartoonist is deciding just which guide to follow, and where to start. But thanks to *Making Comics*, the latest installment from famed alternative cartoonist Scott McCloud, that task just got a little bit easier.

What's most important about *Making Comics* is what it doesn't try to do. It's not a guide to figure and anatomy drawing; it's not a tutorial on perspective, nor is it a comprehensive guide to securing a job in the comics industry. McCloud acknowledges that there are already a million-and-one of

these books already available, and offers a complete bibliography on them. Instead, *Making Comics* is a book about visual communication in a specific medium, and according to McCloud, comics are not simply a series of pictures with word bubbles, meant to entertain pubescent boys. Since the first etchings on cave walls, pictures have been used to convey emotion, capturing a moment in time and immortalizing it.

The first few chapters outline some tips to getting started on building a

comic from the ground up, refraining from wasting any time dwelling on tedious details. Using a series of step-based rules, McCloud explains the processes he's developed in his 24 years of experience and how they've been a saving grace for him on many strips. From character design to scene placement to word use, *Making Comics* covers all the basics in making your comics work. There's even a chapter on choosing the right materials for the job, although it's stressed that the artist settles on whatever feels the most natural.

What really makes the book stand out from the hundreds of other guides is the fact that it not only embraces its subject matter, but goes entirely beyond it to make the content universally applicable. While McCloud refers to common artistic topics like character sketches and storyboarding techniques, these are only tools used to tie in to the comics genre. *Making Comics* could just as easily be a comprehensive guide for novel writers, playwrights, directors and social psychologists. It explores the methods that make characters believable, and then connects these methods to the human experience and the emotions that transform a handful of scribbles on a page into truly a believable human being.

Making Comics is McCloud's third entry into this genre, following 1993's *Understanding Comics*, and 2000's more controversial *Reinventing Comics*. However, it holds up perfectly on its own, while making reference to his past works in order to



strengthen key points. While years of experience have made McCloud a near-guru among fellow cartoonists, he maintains a style of modest fallibility in the book's conversational writing. This sort of attitude is comfortably familiar amongst artists; we're often our own worst critics.

Because of McCloud's knowledge in his field, though, *Making Comics* offers a vibrant pastiche of all things comics, spanning eras and cultures. Paying homage to past greats like Eisner and Kirby, it allows you to gain a true appreciation for their humble beginnings and the careers forged in their own love's labor. Much like drawing comics themselves, *Making Comics* makes its subject matter approachable, easy to pick up and quick to master.



Oh, Maria, Maria

Yes, my name might be popular, but please, stop singing it to me



MARIA
KOTOVYKH

If anyone out there wants to write a musical, or any song for that matter, make sure that you include a character named Maria. Even better, make sure to name a song after her, and make sure the name Maria is included in a prominent line, like the refrain. But only do this if you really want to annoy everyone you know named Maria.

Some names just happen to show up in a lot of movies and songs. I happen to have one of those names. *The Sound of Music*. *West Side Story*. Latin music. And as much as I'd like to say this list is exhaustive, I regret that I can't.

Let's think about *The Sound of Music*. I love that movie. I really do. And I'm sure at one time I liked that song called "Maria." Now, not so much. You see, there is one line from that song that everyone always takes the liberty to sing to me: "How do you solve a problem like Maria?" I'm wincing in agony and gritting my teeth even as I type that.

Imagine being able to hear only one line from a song, but none of the other lines. And now imagine people singing that one line to you again and again, broken record-style. And then imagine watching these same people acting like they are the first ones who ever noticed that the person they are singing to shares a name with the person in that song. Welcome to the problem facing Maria.

There are other interesting lyrics in that song for those who desperately want to serenade me, nun-style, call me a pain in the ass, or simply grate on my nerves. I'm sure those Mother Superior wanna-bes can delve into that song and find some new lyrics to sing. Please, *anything* but that refrain, (which I absolutely refuse to re-write, by the way).

Now, thanks to all the closet Broadway stars out there, I can probably sing parts of "Maria" from *West Side Story*, even though I have never heard an actual recording of the song, nor have I ever seen the movie. However, being serenaded from this musical is a bit better because there isn't one, but two prominent lines from this song. One is "Maria, Maria!" and the other one is "I've just met a girl named Maria!"

But one night last year, I wished that the

characters from *West Side Story* had just stuck to their inter-group rivalry and kept their mouths shut. I was at a formal dinner-and-dance event put on by my ballroom dance club. I was all decked out, the lights were dim, and I was floating away to a nice, slow, lyrical waltz. Suddenly, my dancing partner decided that this would be a good time to blare "MARIA, MARIA!" right into my ear!

It seemed to me that a lot of the songs we danced to had a "Maria" in them. I don't speak or understand Spanish, but I could certainly understand when a backup vocalist would call: "Hey, Maria, Maria!" in the middle of a song. The distraction totally threw me off my groove.

And speaking of dancing, a few years ago, I was really into Latin dancing (salsa, meringue), and my friends and I used to hit a Latin club at least once a week. It seemed to me that a lot of the songs we danced to had a "Maria" in them. I don't speak or understand Spanish, but I could certainly understand when a backup vocalist would call: "Hey, Maria, Maria!" in the middle of a song. The distraction totally threw me off my groove. So there I was on the dance floor, mid-meringue with my partner, and I was looking around like: "What? huh? Did someone call me?"

That dance must have looked sexy. Very, very sexy.

But the strangest comment about my name that I've ever received was when someone asked me if I'm Jesus' mother. My friend was visiting his parents, and I when I phoned him, his father said that he wasn't home. So I said, "Can you please have him call Maria?" And what did his father say? "Maria? Oh, are you the mother of God?"

Thinking he was so clever, he laughed hysterically. But overcome with despair and rage, I ripped the phone out of the wall, Hulk-style, fell to my knees, and wailed "What have I done to deserve this, God? Why me? Why?"

So please be kind to your friendly neighbourhood Maria, because if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Downhill Jam takes an unfortunate spill

Tony Hawk's Downhill Jam

Nintendo DS
Vicarious Visions
Activision
E for Everyone

REID BUCKMASTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Fool me once, shame on me. Fool me three or more times and I must be a fucking idiot. Vicarious Visions: stop ruining the games I love. From back in the day when you wrecked my Spider-Man games on the Nintendo 64, to last week when you violated Tony Hawk on the DS—again—you have been pretty consistent at ruining other developers' good work.

To explain this, Neversoft, the developers that make the *Tony Hawk* skateboarding games we've come to know and love, aren't actually in charge of every Tony Hawk game out there. There's another lesser developer by the name of Vicarious Visions that takes care of a lot of successful games' follow-ups and spin-offs, games like *Tony Hawk* series, and they never quite manage to get them right. In this case, VV has been at the helm of the latest handheld iterations of the recent Tony Hawk games and been doing a pretty good job of taking a franchise that's easy to love and turning it into a chore to play.

Downhill Jam is a perfect example of this because, simply, *Tony Hawk* was never meant to be a racing game. For all you *Tony Hawk* veterans out there that remember the first game, *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater*, do you remember the sub-par level that was actually called "Downhill Jam?" The dam level? In Phoenix? Yeah, that's what this whole game is. It's not the golden formula of open-world skateboarding with side goals thrown in—no, no. It's pretty much the SSX snowboarding games but on a skateboard, and it really doesn't transfer over well.

For one, the trick system just isn't conducive to the whole racing bit. It actually slows you down, and you have to do it because it's the only way to fill up the boost meter—a meter that basically does just that, allows you to boost to catch up after tricking. There are also problems with the way combos work out—well, namely, they don't. The DS D-Pad just doesn't seem to be able to handle the quick input necessary to come out of your 360 airwalk and into your nose manual. It's really the manuals that are the issue because you need them to link



your combos together, and the DS only registers the input for them maybe every second attempt, so racking up big points is way tougher than it should be.

The whole thing is packaged pretty oddly, too. The cut-scenes and all the in-game art have this weird, kiddy, Fisher Price look to them that really kills the long running "cool" credit the series has established. The sound is also a hit-and-miss affair. Tony Hawk still can't voice act—no surprise—but at least there's real voice acting in the first place. The music is appropriately energetic, but still manages to be really boring since there are only about ten no-name tracks in the game anyways, and you can really only listen to them so many times until you start playing with the volume off. Oh, and you'll also want the volume off so you can avoid hearing your skater tell you that he "got owned" over and over after every time you make a sloppy landing.

Put this all together with fugly graphics—also known as muddy textures and really stiff animation—and a storyline that's bad, even for a *Tony Hawk* game, and you've got yourself a true waste of \$35.

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At Gateway A&E, we strive to become the most seasoned of film connoisseurs. Indeed, taking one look at this poster makes me feel as though all of the cinematic criticism and training I've undertaken has paid off, for nothing screams Oscar more than Snape and Lupin expressing their true feelings for each other. If you come volunteer for Gateway A&E (meetings Thursdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB), you, too, will be able to judge the artistic merit of silver screen masterpieces.

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Swimming in a school of ska

Although Reel Big Fish are without a label, they're still a part of the in-crowd

Reel Big Fish

With Streetlight Manifesto, Suburban Legends and Westbound Train
Friday, 10 November at 8pm
The Powerplant

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After years of begging to be released from the clutches of their former production company, Reel Big Fish finally got what they wanted. While most bands would cry, OD, or vanish into the deep blue if they lost their contract, Reel Big Fish was so thrilled that they were gasping for air.

"All a record company is supposed to do is to get your record out and provide publicity for you," says Reel Big Fish trumpeter John Christianson. "[But] over the ten years, the record company wasn't doing anything. So we were very happy to be off the label, because we could do all the work, and actually see money from the record sales. All the things we've always wanted to put out we can now give to the fans, without delay, without going through record company approval and without doing demos for the record company."

Now about midway through their autumn tour, dubbed the "Fall of Ska," Reel Big Fish took some time to answer other important questions—

such as, does their tour name imply that this fall season will be full of Ska music, or are they suggesting that Ska music is "flounder"-ing as a genre?

"All the things we've always wanted to put out we can now give to the fans, without delay, without going through record company approval and without doing demos for the record company."

JOHN CHRISTIANSON

With enough warmth, happiness and enthusiasm to nourish an entire village of elementary school children, Christianson is happy to explain.

"I don't think [the genre of ska] has 'gone' anywhere," he says. "I think this is another wave, and we're riding the crest of that wave."

Riding the crest of waves is definitely a familiar pastime for the group, especially since they're based in Orange County, California. And while on the topic of weather—if we can even say that the Fish can stay on

one topic at a time—Christianson isn't ashamed to state his fear of autumn in Edmonton and the -12C temperature.

"Holy shit! That's really damn cold," Christianson tells his fellow bandmates, who're scattered about the room behind him, engaged in various activities. Gasps and swears of disbelief abound.

"I'm going to have to go shopping for some warmer clothes," he adds.

Surely a band called Reel Big Fish has seen stranger things than snow, though.

"Oh yeah, you know, we get a lot of strange things to sign ... and we actually signed a guy's dead grandmother's prosthetic leg. And that was ... really strange. Yeah ..."

Reel Big Fish doesn't seem to have any real problem with people bringing other people's prosthetic limbs to shows for autographs, though, and things to do at Big Fish shows are just as chaotic.

"Come to the shows to forget all your problems, to relax, to have a good time, to dance," Christianson says. "Do that at the shows, don't be afraid to dance, don't be afraid to yell and scream, and don't be afraid to say hi to us if you see us on the street."

And the don'ts?

"Umm, don't punch each other," Christianson concludes.



Weird Al Yankovic

Straight Out Of Lynwood
Way Moby/Volcano
www.weirdal.com

PHIL HEAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Straight out of Lynwood has the types

of songs we've come to expect from Weird Al—such as polka arrangements of recent popular songs—but despite the album's familiar feel, it can also easily be described as his best release to date, for Al slowly continues to improve on both his humour and musical proficiency.

"Canadian Idiot" alone is reason enough to buy the album, if only for the secret thrill we get when our existence ends up being acknowledged by foreigners. Also, the fact that the Chamillionaire parody "White and Nerdy" has broken into the billboard top ten attests to the overall quality of this compilation.

While most famous for his parodies, *Straight out of Lynwood* also features original songs that showcase Al's

ability to channel disparate musical influences. For instance, "Virus Alert" brilliantly captures the feel of cheesy '80s pop while simultaneously avoiding being cheesy itself, and "Pancreas" feels like a lost Beach Boys track.

Unfortunately, at nearly eleven minutes, the R Kelly spoof "Trapped In The Drive Through" drags on way too long. Also, it's a pity his parody of James Blunt's "You're beautiful" wasn't included, due to a dispute with Blunt's record label.

And since "Don't Download This Song" isn't enough of a warning to fans about illegal downloading, *Lynwood* comes as a dual disk packed with videos, documentaries and other goodies to get people to shell out their clams for the genuine article.

GATEWAY PHOTO



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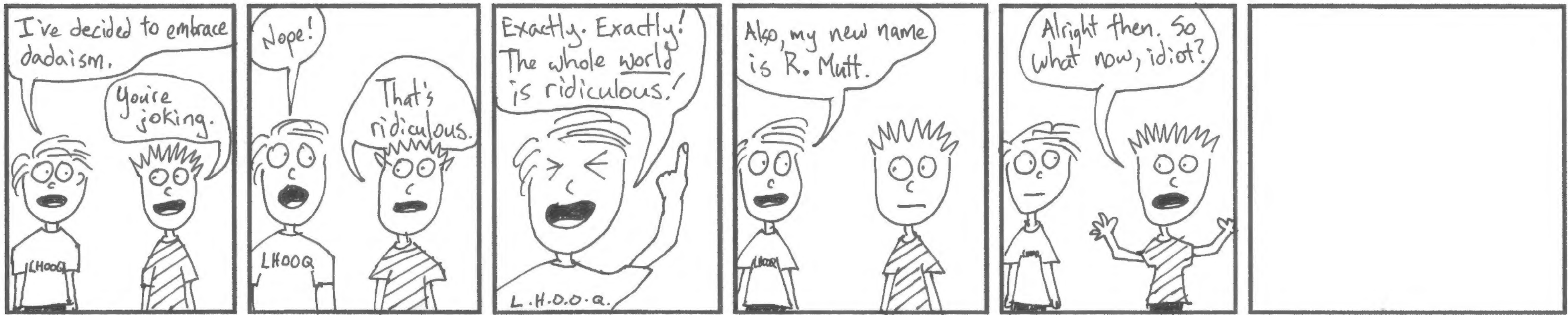
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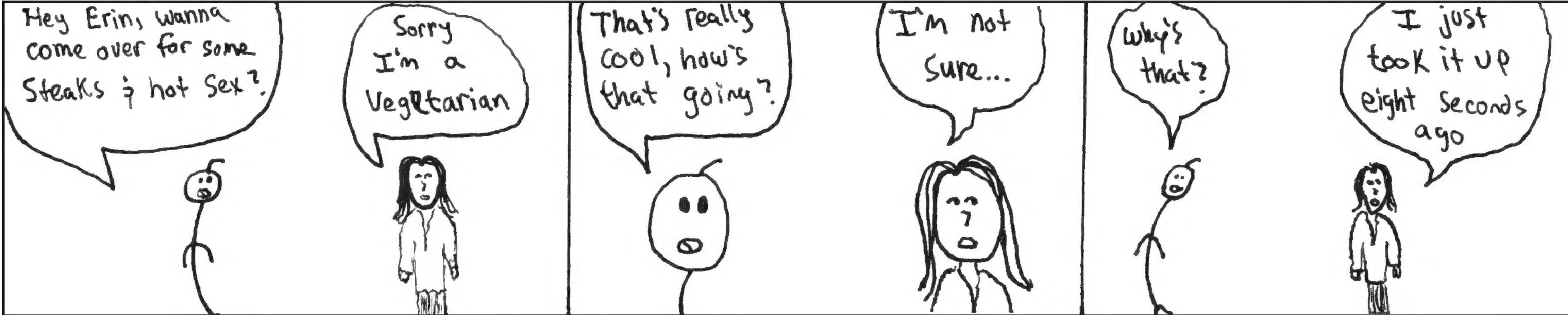
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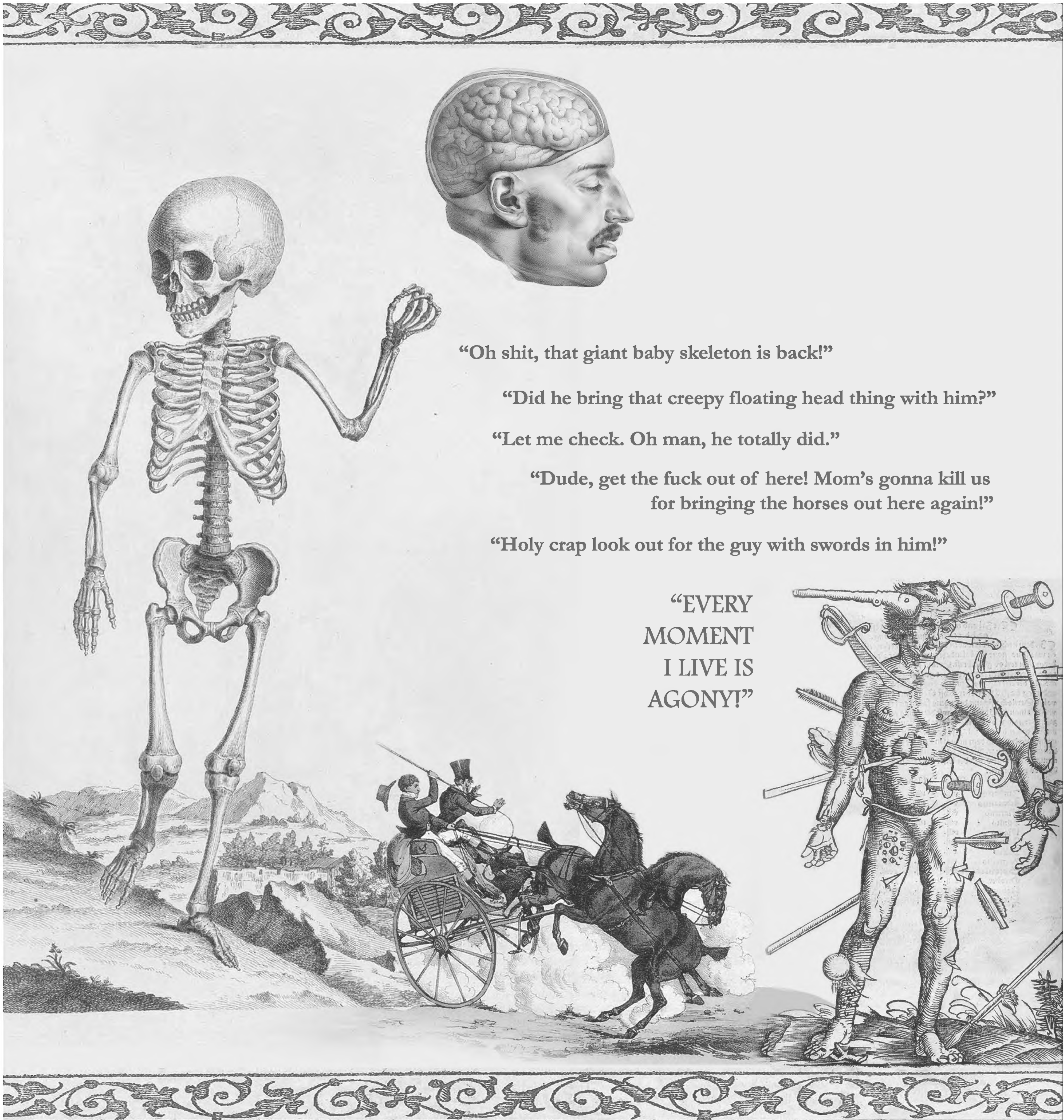


RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)





“Oh shit, that giant baby skeleton is back!”

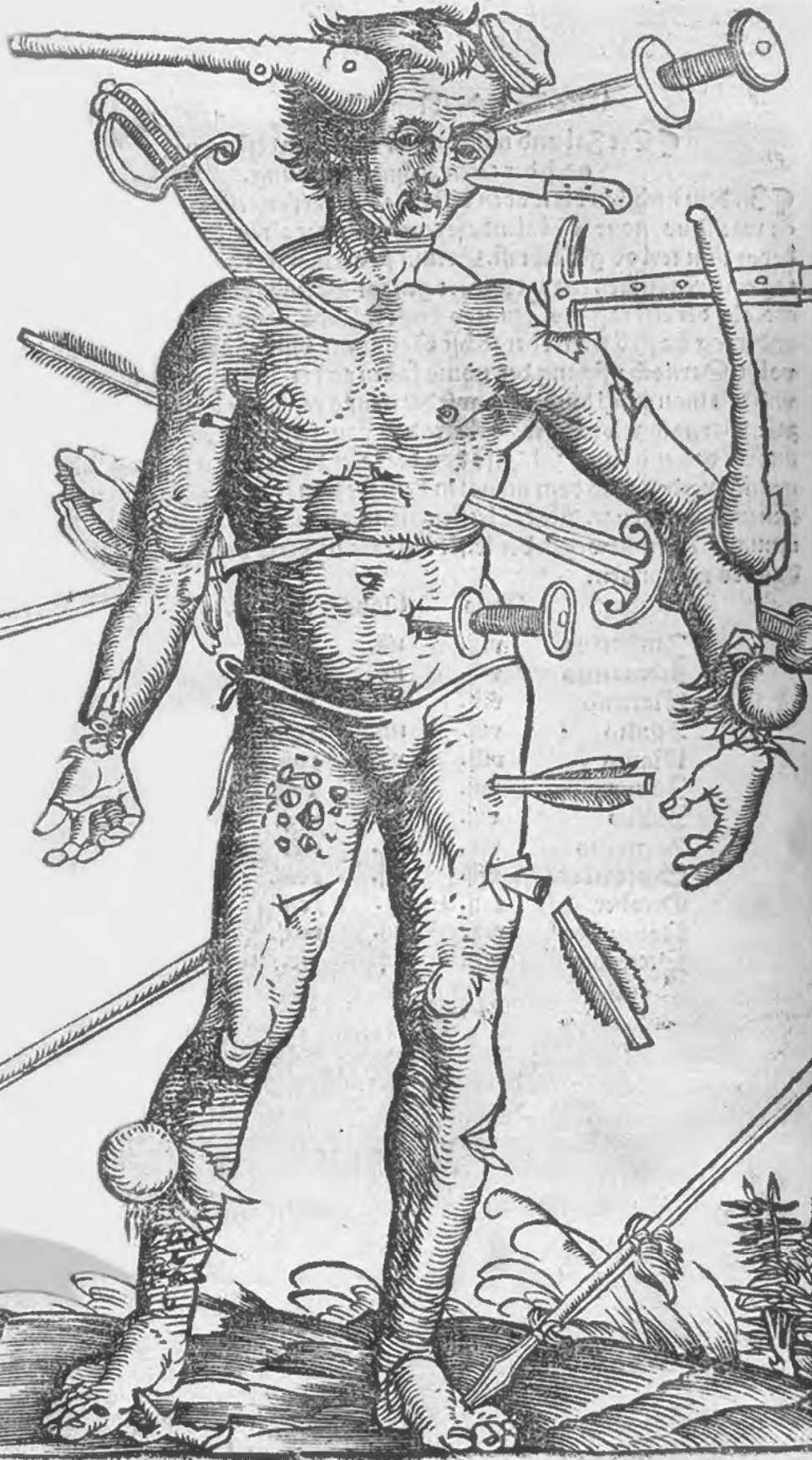
“Did he bring that creepy floating head thing with him?”

“Let me check. Oh man, he totally did.”

“Dude, get the fuck out of here! Mom’s gonna kill us for bringing the horses out here again!”

“Holy crap look out for the guy with swords in him!”

“EVERY
MOMENT
I LIVE IS
AGONY!”



THE GATEWAY

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Adam,
I still remember the romantic way you seduced me with your massive jizz cannon. It was an arrow straight through my Rozen-heart. You're a straight shooter with those killer cock-beams.

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 17 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 7 november, 2006

Ambivalence prevails with new tuition policy



ASHLEY SCARLETT

NEW TUITION KEEPS STUDENTS WISHIN' Behind these pillars, the Tories forged a new tuition policy that was heralded by some, but panned by others.

Student leaders and politicians debate merits of tuition plan

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

In February 2005, Premier Ralph Klein pledged in a televised address that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition in the country, but after 632 days of waiting, the announcement of the new tuition policy is getting mixed reviews.

On Friday, Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard revealed that the ministry would continue to use the 2004/05 levels of tuition as a starting point and that further tuition increases would be tied to the Consumer Price Index. Students in Alberta have been paying tuition at the 2004/05 levels for the past two years, as the government has been providing rebates directly to institutions in order to buffer the cost of their fee increases.

"What you had there was the tip of the iceberg, not everything that's below the water," Herard said on Monday.

PLEASE SEE **TUITION** ♦ PAGE 2

ALSO READ **FREHNER** ON PAGE 6

Maclean's rankings low on U of A's list

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

In the shadow of a boycott by over half of the 47 universities it was evaluating, *Maclean's* magazine released the results of its 16th annual university rankings survey on 2 November.

But even with the University of Alberta coming in first place in the reputation rankings and sixth place in the medical-doctoral category, skepticism on campus surrounding the ranking remains.

"I think [this year's] *Maclean's* rankings is another ranking where the magazine has attempted to try and collect information and produce an outcome that they believe is valid. [But] as far as we're concerned it's really a very poorly constructed ranking—which is the reason why we refused to send them any data," U of A President Indira Samarasekera said.

On 14 August, the U of A together with ten other universities sent a joint letter signed by the university presidents to *Maclean's* magazine indicating they wouldn't participate in filling out the required questionnaire used to compile the annual university

rankings, stating they felt the methodology was statistically unreliable, oversimplified and arbitrary. Later, more universities joined the protest, bringing the total to 26.

"As far as we're concerned it's really a very poorly constructed ranking—which is the reason why we refused to send them any data."

INDIRA SAMARASEKERA,
U OF A PRESIDENT

But Tony Keller, managing editor of special projects at *Maclean's*, explained that, though universities were vocally critical in the past, since the release of this year's rankings he hasn't attractively sought feedback.

"It's not like I've been phoning people. I'm not going around canvassing the university opinion section," Keller said.

PLEASE SEE **MACLEANS** ♦ PAGE 3

Golden Bears mugged on Whyte Ave

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

A pair of victories for the Golden Bears basketball team this weekend has been overshadowed by a violent attack on a pair of their recruits—CG Morrison and Gary Pelton.

Morrison and Pelton were walking home after a night at the bar on 31 October when Pelton's shoe came undone and he stopped to tie it. Morrison continued walking and, according to Bears head coach Don Horwood, a white car pulled up to him and a man jumped out and demanded his wallet before attacking him.

Pelton—a freshman who is redshirting while he deals with knee injuries—ran to Morrison's rescue and was accosted by three more men who got out of the car. He was put in a chokehold and had a gun waved in his face.

"Gary was really shaken up psychologically from what had happened," Horwood said. "CG didn't seem to be as psychologically affected as Gary, but he obviously has more wounds."

Morrison's right eye was swollen shut and he suffered some concussion symptoms. Despite being the team's projected starting point guard, the injuries kept him out of play in the Bears' 84–76 win over Thompson Rivers on Friday night and their 92–59



MIKE OTTO

BRUISED BUT NOT BEATEN Attack won't keep Bear out of the game for long.

victory against UCFV Saturday. The games would have been the first as a Golden Bear for the transfer from Camosun College.

"It was tough [not to play], but I'm glad it's over with and I'm just looking forward to getting better,"

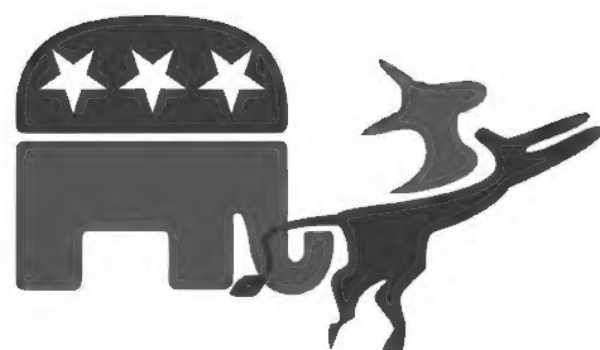
Morrison said.

While Pelton had some lower back pain and a bit of a headache and Morrison's face was badly bruised and swollen, Horwood's main concern was for the two players' mental states.

PLEASE SEE **MUGGED** ♦ PAGE 9

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Elephants and donkeys!

Our *ad hoc* panel of experts wade through the mud-slinging to bring you the most offensive election-time ads

OPINION, PAGE 7



Of love and war

Studio Theatre's latest production *The Double Inconstancy* stirs up the comedic nature of unrequited love.

A&E, PAGE 11

THE GATEWAY

tuesday, 7 november, 2006
volume XCVII number 17

Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 12 000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.



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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Umax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Highway 16 Speed Challenge and OCB/OCA.

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Reactions to tuition policy a mixed bag

TUITION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Herard explained that there are details to be announced that will make a more comprehensive affordability package.

"When you add up all of the initiatives that we're undertaking for our next budget, we will be the most affordable, innovative and the best support system in the country," he said.

But Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External) at the University of Alberta, said that the policy is simply "an endorsement of the status quo when it comes to the up-front cost of an education."

"Most of the stuff that we advocated for was not included in this policy," said Cournoyer, who is also the Chair of Council of Alberta University Students. "It's not actually dealing with the issue of affordability for students, which is disappointing after we've been promised again and again that we'd be pleasantly surprised."

But Herard said that the policy does fulfill Klein's promise and that he wants to sit down with student leaders to go over the details.

"I'm just really anxious for the students to understand that what they saw was just part of the picture and quite frankly, I don't blame them for being somewhat disappointed because if you don't have the whole picture, then that happens," Herard said.

Still, not all student leaders criticized the new policy, as Athabasca University's Students' Union applauded the government in a 6 November press release.

"One item that was not specifically requested by AUSU, which we are delighted to see in the new policy, is the requirement that universities and the government must consult with students groups—who are, after all, those most affected by the policy—before making any changes," the press release said.

But since the passing of Bill 40 in May, which took tuition out of legislation and put it into regulation, Cournoyer suggested that the government could make changes in closed-door cabinet meetings, without student input.

Raj Pannu, New Democrat MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona, said that the government already conceded that tuition fee levels "were intolerably high" by freezing the fees for the past

two years, and that increasing upon the 2004/05 levels was "disappointing."

"To use that as a benchmark and start increasing the fees even beyond that makes no sense," Pannu said, who is the NDP critic for advanced education. "Alberta students will be paying more in tuition fees as this new formula is implemented."

However, Herard explained that though student leaders wanted the ministry to roll back tuition to 2000/01 levels, such a step would have prevented other reforms to the system.

"We're looking at how we can get the best bang for our dollar and help students in the most effective way dealing with all of the challenges that we have in our student system plan," he said, adding that the ministry is currently working with the federal government to change some regulations.

Carl Amrhein, U of A Provost, said it's important to keep in mind that the government has "provided all of the funding to the universities that they promised," and that students have paid frozen rates for the past two years.

"The elected student leaders will always argue that the government could have done more—but that's a political decision—but the government has, in Alberta, shifted a least a little bit [of] the burden back to the taxpayer and away from the student," Amrhein said. "I think this is exciting news and certainly moving in a helpful direction."

Amrhein said that tying the increase to CPI, which amounts to about 3.3 per cent, was no surprise, since the ministry had hinted at those numbers for a while. Still, he was pleasantly surprised that the government has guaranteed to continue to buffer the cost of increases that exceed 3.3 per cent for the next three years—\$136 million in additional funding.

The "Affordability Framework for Post-secondary Education," released along with the announcement also stated that it will reduce eligibility barriers to increase access to the student finance system, in an effort to recognize education costs that extend beyond tuition. However, Cournoyer said that access to greater financing makes it easier for students to accumulate higher debt.

"I feel this is a step in the wrong direction," Cournoyer said.



KRISTINA SULATYCKI

PLEASED PROVOST Carl Amrhein is pleased with Alberta's new tuition policy.

TIMELINE

January 2005—then-minister of advanced education Dave Hancock began consultations to review post-secondary education.

February 2005—Premier Ralph Klein promised Albertans in a televised address that the province would have the most affordable tuition policy in the country.

June 2005—the *A Learning Alberta* review began, headed by a 17-member Steering Committee, who undertook the task of a comprehensive post-secondary education review.

November 2005—the Alberta Learning review brought together 250 postsecondary education leaders to discuss the ongoing review.

Hancock suggested that the tuition policy would be announced in the spring of 2006.

April 2006—Dave Hancock resigned from his post as minister to run in the Progressive Conservative leadership race and was replaced by Denis Herard.

May 2006—the government successfully passed Bill 40, which took tuition out of legislation and put it into regulation.

Herard suggested the policy would be announced in September 2006.

On Friday, 3 November, Minister Herard announced the new tuition policy.

Pannu echoed these statements.

"By simply increasing the loan limits, the government has simply allowed debt loads to go up," Pannu said. "What the government needed to do was change its financing policies to shift the focus from loans to forgivable grants upon the completion of a program."

With the Progressive Conservative leadership race in full swing, Cournoyer said a new lobbying strategy will have to wait, and that the SU and CAUS will continue to pressure the government to follow through on Klein's promise.

"This is the kind of policy that should

have been implemented 15 years ago, before tuition at the University of Alberta saw the massive increases that it did—with the 300 per cent increases," Cournoyer said.

According to Statistics Canada, the average cost of tuition in Alberta during the 1990/91 academic year was \$1286, which was below the national average of \$1464. Tuition fees in Alberta for the 2006/07 academic year are \$4828, compared to the national average of \$4347. Québec students paid the lowest tuition in the country this year at \$1916.

STREETERS

Former president of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, was sentenced to death on 5 November, for poison gas attacks on Kurdish peoples.

Do you support the use of the death penalty for war criminals?



Megan Davis
Science III



Brock Richardson
Poli Sci III



Graham Connolly
Arts IV



Farzad Khoshandangoli
Sciences IV

Yes I do...Mainly because [Saddam Hussein] basically killed a lot of other people, so I think the only fair retaliation is that he be put to death.

I just think that in the particular case of Saddam Hussein, that the court that has been set up there by the Americans is about as valid as one of Mick McGeough's calls.

Yes, I do in certain cases. If it's a fair and reasonable trial that's approved of by the people that they oppressed.

I'd say absolutely because being as he committed so many atrocious crimes against the Kurds and the Iranians using poisonous gas, absolutely.

Critics call for federal-run evaluations

Samarasekera says that *Maclean's* university rankings are statistically unreliable, as others call for the creation of nation-wide evaluation methods

MACLEAN'S ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Back in August, criticism coming from representatives at Alberta's three main universities concerned the way the magazine calculated university entrance grades, weighted at about eleven per cent out of the assessed categories, and which they felt made Alberta entrance grades seem lower because of different percentage points used for As.

"I don't actually think there's a lot of significance to [the results]. I think *Maclean's* went ahead and just did what it normally would have done otherwise," Students' Union President Sam Power said.

Keller explained that in order to evaluate those universities who had decided not to participate, *Maclean's* used publicly available data.

"A lot of stuff you can get from third party sources," Keller said.

However, Power said the rankings do little to tell universities where they really stand, as some of the data was a year old, and added that the federal government needs to look at how universities can be evaluated on a national scale.

Samarasekera agreed with Power in advocating for the establishment of a national evaluation system, stating that the existence of an organization responsible for looking at the performance of universities would better serve students and faculty.

"We would be very interested in participating in that kind of standardized set of metrics that could be captured," Samarasekera said.

"One of the problems with the *Maclean's* ranking is they don't audit the data, so different universities may be sending data that is not gathered in the same way and therefore not comparable," Samarasekera said, adding that she worried some universities may be even undertaking "gaming," in other words adjusting their data so they look better.

And in a paper released yesterday by the Educational Policy Institute, a Toronto-based think tank, they advocated for the creation of a national unified method of evaluating schools.

"Our purpose for looking at this is not particularly based on university accountability, our purpose for looking at this is just to be able to create a reasonably useful set of data," Alex Usher from the Educational Policy Institute said.

Usher also noted that universities put out enormous amounts of data, but not every institution collects it in the same way.

"In my mind, if people had enough data people could create whatever rankings they wanted," Usher said.

But Keller stressed that if universities are unhappy with the *Maclean's* rankings methodology they're always welcome to help the magazine develop

a stronger model, rather than boycott participation.

And while Samarasekera noted she isn't a great promoter of *Maclean's* rankings, she also said she was pleased to see the U of A come first in the national reputation category.

"I think there's huge improvements needed for those ranking to be more meaningful, [but] having said that we were very pleased with the national reputation survey," Samarasekera said. "That was good news, it means that people are increasingly becoming aware of the high quality of a University of Alberta education. And that will help us attract some of the best students from Alberta, Canada and the world to come to the U of A."

Usher further pointed out the controversy surrounding the reliability of the *Maclean's* rankings has sparked constructive debate.

"I think there's a willingness to talk about the issue that was not there even six months ago," Usher said. "If there's one thing that the *Maclean's* [rankings controversy] did is it made institutions aware of the difficulties in inter-institution comparisons that exists."

With the launch of this year's university issue, *Maclean's* has also redesigned its website to allow users to now create their own ranking using a customized evaluation of the data collected in the survey.

High marks for *Globe and Mail* survey

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

The *Globe and Mail's* University Report Card, released in late October, has already received the passing grade from the Administration at the University of Alberta.

"The *Globe and Mail* [report] is becoming a very useful piece of information because they're very clear, they deal with only undergrad students on issues related to undergrad education," said Carl Armrhein, U of A Provost. "So it's crisp—it's pure in that sense."

The fifth edition of the annual University Report Card, which was compiled using survey results from nearly 33 000 undergraduate students across Canada, gave a letter grade to various instructions for a number of categories, including overall satisfaction, food service, and availability of faculty members outside of class. The grading system was designed to help prospective students make an informed decision when applying to postsecondary institutions.

"I hope it has some impact," said Simon Beck, editor of the University Report Card, in an e-mail sent to the *Gateway*. "It's not meant to be the only resource university

applicants should use, but a complement to other more traditional sources of information."

The study assigned a letter grade for over 60 different categories, with the scores based off of the average response of students from those institutions. Beck explained that the grading system was used in place of traditional ranking systems because it provided a better understanding of what the institutions offered to students.

"The old method did not take into account differences in size between schools, and was misleading in that there was not often a big statistical difference between schools that were placed high or lower in each ranking. We switched to a letter grading system in 2004, which is much more reflective of the actual survey results and a better guide for the reader," Beck said.

In this year's issue, the U of A scored top marks for its academic reputation and the personal safety of its students, with an A for both. Lower marks were given for other areas, with Cs in both student residences and on-campus employment opportunities. Armrhein says that the information contained in the rankings has an impact on how the U of A

views itself and what plans it makes for its future.

"We take very seriously the information contained in the Report Card, especially relative to other universities. For example, class size and advising [are things] we clearly need to worry about," Armrhein said. "We look at these things as we work with the students and work through the budgets."

Beck also believes that the *Globe and Mail's* university reports, and others like it, have had an effect on the way that universities do business and what areas they focus on.

"I think there is now a huge drive by universities to improve the student experience and make campus life much more enjoyable for their customers. I think this is partly because our Report Card brought the issue to light in the first place. Our survey made it clear that issues such as huge class sizes and lack of interaction between faculty and students was marring the student experience, especially in the larger institutions. Now, these are issues every university is addressing," Beck concluded.

A full report of all of the grades for the U of A and other universities across the country can be found at www.globeandmail.com

THE RATE STUFF

While both the *Globe and Mail* and *Macleans.ca* rated Canada's universities, the methods used by the two were quite different. The *Globe and Mail* surveyed students and assigned a letter grade for each category. *Maclean's* spoke to current students, university officials, guidance counsellors and corporate CEOs, assigning each university a place compared to other institutions. Here's how Alberta stacks up to the rest.

Globe and Mail University Report Card

Category	Grade
Faculty's knowledge of subjects	A
Tolerance for diverse opinions	A-
Attractiveness of campus	B+
Health Services	B
Quality of teaching	B
School spirit	B-
Class sizes	C+
Needs-based scholarships	C
Food Services	C-

Macleans.ca University Ranking Tool

Category	Ranking
Reputational survey	1st
Faculty with PhDs	2nd
Student awards	5th
Library holdings per student	6th
Medical research grants	9th
Operating Budget	9th
Alumni support	21st
Proportion of graduates	24th
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FACT: According to urbandictionary.com the verb "Fed-erline" is to latch onto someone else's money, talent and fame, while offering nothing of yourself except your (dubious) talent (in bed), to stop washing one's own hair (and possibly to stop bathing entirely), start wearing manpris, untie one's shoes and skank all over the place.

FACT: The verb "Gateway" is to latch onto a student newspaper's awesomeness, while offering less and less of your (dubious) academic talent (in university), to stop going to class (and possibly to stop studying entirely), start eating far too many RATT-burgers, playing with dinosaurs and drinking all over the place.

GATEWAY NEWS
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Forum tackles issue of sex and civics

Roundtable discussed important challenges to women in the political world

CATHERINE SCOTT
 News Writer

With the departure of Alana Delong—the only female candidate—from the Alberta Progressive Conservative leadership race, and the current controversy surrounding the ongoing row between Belinda Stronach and Peter MacKay, issues of gender and politics have been on the minds of many Albertans; and a recent roundtable discussion was held at the University of Alberta to address those topics.

The event took place at Lister Conference Centre on 2 November and included appearances by City Councillor Kim Krushell, former deputy prime minister Anne McLellan, and MLAs Delong and Laurie Blakeman.

Janet Buckmaster, the coordinator for the One Woman One Vote Program which organized the event, says that it is held every three years and is timed to correspond with upcoming elections.

"The reason that we're doing this present roundtable in November 2006 is that we have municipal elections coming up in October 2007, and we're likely to have a provincial and possibly a federal election, probably within the next 18 months," Buckmaster said.

She views it as a means of support for women who are interested in running for public office. She also noted that although women make up more than

half of the country's population, they're vastly under-represented in politics.

According to Buckmaster, while women make up 52 per cent of Canada's total population, 29 per cent of the members of the House of Commons are female. The numbers are even lower in Alberta, where 15 per cent of the Legislature is made up of women despite the fact that the province's population is split nearly equally between the two genders.

"I thought what a great way to become more inspired myself, and [seeing] a group of women with like interests is encouraging,"

AMY BARBER,
 POLITICAL SCIENCE PHD CANDIDATE

The women in the room shared their thoughts on gender and politics and what it means to be a female in public office.

Phyllis Kobasiuk, Mayor of Parkland County, doesn't believe that gender has much to do with anybody's success in politics. She stated that whether you're a man or a woman in politics, you've got to have confidence.

"I think you feel confident by being prepared, knowing your stuff, and [being] able to understand what that community wants and expects from you," Kobasiuk said.

Backgrounds varied among the women who attended the event, but they all shared a common eagerness to speak to the elected female representatives. Topics discussed included balancing personal and public life, having a supportive spouse and how to deal with comments made by male politicians, how to get a start in politics. Political science PhD candidate Amy Barber was among those that attended the event.

"I believe strongly in issues in gender politics and increasing the number of women in politics. I thought, what a great way to become more inspired myself, and [seeing] a group of women with like interests is encouraging," Barber noted.

"You don't know that it's out there until you see something like this and feel the collective strength," she added.

The intention of the event was to provide women with support to get involved with politics. Running for office may seem like an overwhelming task for most women, but according to Barber, attending the One Woman One Vote roundtable helped make the challenge more manageable.

"It seems more tangible now," Barber affirmed.



JOSH STAAV

THREE TIMES THE FUN Wharton's book, *The Perilous Realm*, is just the first in a planned trilogy of fantasy novels.

U of A Prof's fantasy trilogy now a reality

DEREK LARSON
 News Writer

Whether recounting the tales of dragons or rings, magicians or other-worldly realms, children's fantasy literature has been enjoying enormous popularity in recent years. And now University of Alberta creative writing professor Thomas Wharton will be venturing into this popular genre with his own fantasy trilogy.

Wharton has already written the first book of his trilogy, and is eagerly awaiting its 2008 publication from Doubleday Canada.

"It's called *The Perilous Realm*," Wharton said. "It's the story of a boy running away from his problems, and he finds himself in this strange world, and discovers it's the world where all the stories come from."

Wharton, an author with three published books of fiction already to his credit, 1995's *Icelfields*, *Salamander* in 2001, and *Logogryph*, released just last year, found writing for the fantasy genre difficult at times.

"At a certain point I had a

manuscript, and I thought it was done," Wharton explained. But upon re-examining the book, Wharton realized that he needed to do more, and wound up incorporating several new ideas.

"They're about what I like to call the alchemy of reading. Strange things happen when a book and a reader come together."

THOMAS WHARTON,
 U OF A CREATIVE WRITING PROF

Wharton, who also teaches several creative writing classes, said that he uses the energy and inspiration of his students to help with his writing.

"[Teaching] is a way for me to articulate and get back in touch with the basics of writing, because they never really change. I've written several books, but I still have to sit down

every day, and face the page, and make decisions ... and that's a thing that any writer, whether they're a beginning writer or not always faces," Wharton said.

Wharton went on to say that much of his inspiration for the craft comes from his students.

"They're really full of energy about writing. They're really committed to it, and they're interested in it," he said.

Wharton explained that he has wanted to write a fantasy story since he was a child, and, now that he has children of his own, he has the desire to write something that they can read.

His love of fantasy even surfaced in some of his previous books of fiction, including *Salamander*, about a printer in the 18th Century trying to print an infinite book, and *Logogryph*, a collection of short stories about reading.

"They're about what I like to call the alchemy of reading," Wharton said. "Strange things happen when a book and a reader come together," Wharton said.

A picture of police brutality is worth a thousand words

YOU'VE SEEN THE PHOTOS: A YOUNG WOMAN, handcuffed, receiving a "head stun," and then being pushed to the ground by a cop. The series of images is shocking and, one would assume, incriminating. However, the Crown prosecutor's office says the police officer in question should not be charged. According to the 2 November edition of the *Edmonton Journal*, "Chief Calgary prosecutor Gordon Wong said a review of the case determined that there was not a reasonable likelihood of a conviction that the use of force was excessive." Ultimately the decision to press criminal charges lies with police Chief Michael Boyd.

The woman's lawyer was also quoted as saying that "the pictures speak for themselves. What's going on here is a stretch to avoid charging police officers. ... My concern is that we are sending a message to our police department that if someone, verbally, without being aggressive, is being impolite, then police have an open ticket to get violent with that individual."

We don't know exactly what happened before the photos were taken or who said what to whom. There are, however, two things we do know: that the woman in question sustained soft tissue injuries, a concussion and broken teeth, among other injuries; and that the events depicted in the photographs actually occurred. But the point should not be that we have a picture of a woman being hit. The point should be that the cop in question was using excessive force—an issue that's come up several times in the past as well.

Take, for instance, the Canada Day riots of 2001. With so much vandalism and so few arrests, police went to the media asking them to publish pictures of suspects, apparently in hopes that public shaming would make their jobs easier. They all refused, though EPS did end up posting pictures on their website.

Photos can be deceiving. They can be taken at such an angle as to obscure a detail or deceive the viewer as to the subject's intent. The angle may be unusual or the perspective skewed. A sequence of photographs allows us to interpolate a sequence of events with relative certainty. It's therefore difficult to argue with a sequence of images that are taken in such a fashion as to show, without distortion, the events that came to pass.

Naturally there are other questions that arise. What if the pictures had never been taken? Would we still be discussing this case? And where does this leave photographers and the media—are we slowly going to become their eyes and ears on the streets?

There's a major disconnect taking place here. With the Whyte Avenue riots, we saw press photos being used in an attempt to find wrongdoers from images in which it may or may not be clear what exactly the individuals are doing. With the more recent incident, Chief Crown prosecutor Wong is saying that "the photographs do not tell the entire story of that night. They only give us a few split seconds of what occurred between the police officer and the lady."

It is human nature to protect our own, but police have to be accountable to the public as well as themselves. The EPS lists as its core values: integrity, accountability and respect, and for them to be selective as to when they rely on photographic evidence is hypocritical at best.

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI
Photo Editor

It's Saddam shame

So, two days before the Republicans were to face the music in the congressional elections, Saddam Hussein's trial comes to a sudden and decisive head-opping end. It's important to keep in mind at this point that displacing tyrannical leaders and "freeing the people" was not why the US went into Iraq in the first place, nor is it why they're there now. Hussein terrorized his own people with impunity for years, and his recent removal, the one circumstantial bonus in America's miserable campaign, should not be confused with upright global justice.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Prusakowski fails to tackle issue, receivers

I would like to convey to you the disappointment and absolute embarrassment I feel towards the Gateway in allowing the publication of Ross Prusakowski's classless and insensitive commentary on the downfall of the Bears Football season (re: "QBs football team's weakest link," 31 October). The inability of your staff to conjure respectful, insightful and constructive opinions regarding struggling elements of our Athletics program is concerning.

I fail to see the value of isolating one member of a varsity team as the sole reason for a losing season [and] referring to his name in the title of the article as the weakest element of the organization. You and your staff have definitely crossed the line of commentary and slander, and if you fail to distinguish the meaning of these terms, perhaps journalism is not your strongest suit.

What is disturbing is Mr Prusakowski's lack of tact, poise and simple understanding of a team game. Which is even more astonishing being that, at his request some time ago, Mr Prusakowski was allowed to dress and practice with the team in order for him to gain a unique perspective of the game. Clearly he failed to notice the other 64 players on the field and that each and every player on that team contributes to a win or loss.

At this level of amateur athletics, one player cannot and should not be sourced publicly as the disappointment of an entire season. If that line of thinking was sanctioned elsewhere, it would be equally poignant to say that Mr Prusakowski has single-handedly corrupted the validity of the Gateway by displaying, with clarity, that your organization is more interested in political gimmickry than supporting and fostering a healthy campus attitude.

I sincerely hope that in the future you show a sense of restraint when publishing articles that are insulting and demeaning to an individual's efforts. Further, I urge you to focus on your responsibility to your readers and realize that your comments can be inappropriate and disrespectful.

NEIL PARASYNCHUK
President
University Athletics Board

Dekes only temporarily fucked up, Berry

Being a University of Alberta alumnus, working professional, and active volunteer at the University of Alberta, I regret to have picked up an article of your Gateway this week. The article, entitled "A Different Kind of Show" (31 October), was difficult to consume considering the insulting content directed towards the Delta Kappa Epsilon Men's Fraternity, a fraternity which I am an alumnus of.

The "eternal fuck-ups" as mentioned in this article are personal friends, colleagues, and associates of mine and are among some of the most brilliant leaders in their chosen fields, which range from politics, business, law, engineering and medicine. The "eternal fuck-ups" support charity efforts at the University of Alberta and in



CONAL PIERSE

Edmonton, including YES, Food for Thought, The Cross Cancer Institute, and others. The "eternal fuck-ups" consist of some of the hardest-working students, who hold distinctions with the University. Your insulting article is deplorable, given it misconstrues details and insults our broad membership in a personal way.

As a student at the University many years ago, I enjoyed and prided myself on being part of the Gateway team. Standards have certainly dropped since then, when the paper resorts to such journalism. Improperly sourced photographs, misrepresentation, and outright defamation are not activities I would expect from the Gateway. I would be interested to find out what ethical standards the Students' Union holds the Gateway to, when it partakes in such journalism. Further, I would be interested to find out how The University of Alberta Alumni Association and Students' Union feels when alumni of the University read such content. I appreciate an entertaining article, but there are standards and limits.

JORJ SAYDE
Alumnus

Frat feature doesn't help Dekes' image one iota

I can't help but to be offended by your article. I am a Deke, and while I can understand some of your points, I believe the degree of slandering you've just dealt out was uncalled for. So I am writing to you to clarify some points that you've obviously misunderstood.

The jumpsuits were not guarding the maze, they are placed there to go over the simple rules and to take your lighters and smokes away to prevent fire hazards. Anyone is allowed in the maze but we "guard" it to make sure everyone is safe.

There were three options there

for your drinking pleasure. For the first time ever we allowed a new company to serve vodka coolers. Yes the marketing rep was a Deke from the United States, [but] we do have a rep [from] Bigrock and so you could have opted for legendary Deke Punch (which obviously you didn't like) or keg beer.

When the police come to our house it is to check up on things, we contact them and allow them to walk through our parties, again for everyone's safety.

I'd advise you check out the website (www.uofadekes.org) and get some real insight from our social chair before continuing to misrepresent facts. I could critique your poor grammar and writing style but hey I'm a science student what do I know about your literary genius.

RYAN HANSEN
Deke

Bus beats biking in winter months

I would like to thank Rob Found and Chris Young for valiantly sticking up for my rights as a fellow cyclist—assuming they actually ride bikes (re: "Students' Union puts U, one S in 'useless,'" 26 October; "U-Pass not so Universal," 31 October). I guess I have the right to bike for an hour-plus every day throughout the winter in extreme temperatures and on dangerous roads. I guess I also have the right to pay \$300-plus for bus passes during those winter months if I decide riding my bike is too much effort.

How can you both assume that all people who walk or bike will continue to do so during the winter? Have you checked out the bike racks lately? Do you also think that people who walk or bike will only live and travel in a confined area of Edmonton, never venturing further than their two feet can take them? Even when I lived closer

to the university (a 15-minute walk) I still found myself regularly travelling across town. A U-Pass would have saved me money. I expected to see letters from people who drive complaining about the potential U-Pass fee, not people who walk and bike! For \$75 dollars, unlimited bus/train travel anywhere in the city is a pretty decent deal, no matter what your current form of transportation is.

It seems that I am part of your so-called minority, yet I disagree with you! Am I alone, or is it possible that maybe not all people who walk and bike feel that the U-Pass will oppress them? While riding a bike is great for the environment and for personal health (although promoting it as the only needed form of exercise is absurd), not everyone can ride a bicycle, for a multitude of reasons including physical ability. Something silly like a mandatory bike-purchase/maintenance fee would simply oppress an even smaller minority group who are physically unable to ride a bike—great idea Mr Found! Maybe the next time the two of you decide to stick up for someone else's rights you should think things through a little more carefully.

CHRISTOPHER LANGLOIS
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



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Long-overdue new tuition policy only puts us back to square one



MATT FREHNER

The sarcastic little “days we’ve been waiting for an affordable tuition policy” sign that our Students’ Union put up in SUB the other day must have done the trick: the Tories finally unveiled their entirely underwhelming tuition policy last Friday.

Quite obviously, Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard was walking through SUB, saw the poster and said to himself, “Oh, right, *that’s* what I was supposed to be working on these last six months. Shit. We’d better get something in writing. How about setting tuition policy back 2004/05 levels? Oh, we already did that? Well, let’s tie the tuition increases to CPI, and throw in some extra tidbits that look good, but don’t really help students in financial need, like increasing loan limits. And let’s get this thing out tomorrow, I want to go tobogganing this weekend.”

Never mind that millions of dollars were poured into reviewing postsecondary education via conferences, consultations with “stakeholders” (oddly enough, usually old white men), and colourful, glossy brochures. I was there last November at the PSE policy discussions, when then-minister Dave Hancock acknowledged that barriers to postsecondary are much more nuanced than simple tuition fees. Housing costs in Edmonton continue to rise, and the Campus Food Bank is strained. Rural and low-income Albertans are perpetually underrepresented.

“It’s clear that the majority of U of A students don’t give a shit about tuition policy. The Tories can dilly-dally with PSE because they know both that the bulk of students won’t lift a finger to protest higher fees, and that we won’t be casting ballots anyway, so our opinions won’t affect the political climate in the slightest.”

But we need not only to understand that these barriers exist; we actually need to act on it. And frankly, after 600-some days of waiting, students shouldn’t be expected to take Herard at his word that the affordability framework will continue to improve, and, come budget time, Alberta will be ready to set up the most affordable tuition policy in Canada.

To be fair, the U of A Students’ Union has historically been a bit scattered in their approach to affordability. A few years ago, our SU was pushing for a tuition policy set at Consumer Price Index (that is, inflation) plus two per cent per year. This was dropped in favour of a complete freeze (does anyone remember the hilariously ineffective campaigns such as freezing the letters T U I T I O N in see-through plastic pails?) before the current SU policy of advocating a return to 2000/01 levels was put in place.

It’s clear that the majority of U of A students don’t give a shit about tuition policy. The Tories can dilly-dally with PSE because they know both that the bulk of students won’t lift a finger to protest higher fees, and that we won’t be casting ballots anyway, so our opinions won’t affect the political climate in the slightest. The apathy at this campus is absolutely astounding.

Albertans weren’t always this lazy. Back in ’82, over 3500 U of A students marched to the Legislature to protest

large funding cuts at the University. In those days students were unwilling to see their fees raised and their services cut, and that was at a time when tuition made up a paltry nine per cent of the University’s operating budget, compared to the over 25 per cent we pay today. It’s strange: we pay for a lot more of our education these days and care a lot less. The last time I remember the SU marching to the Legislature—and that was a few years ago—I could count the number of people on two hands and one foot.

Yes, we’re apathetic. What’s absolutely absurd, however, is that Herard had the brass balls to suggest Alberta’s tuition policy is anywhere near the most affordable in the country: in fact, at \$4828, we’re well above national average, and fully \$2912 above Québec, which boasts lowest tuition in Canada. Unless they’re insinuating that tuition is affordable because of the stellar economy in Alberta, which belies the fact that a booming economy furthers rather than tightens the gap between rich and poor. It’s the responsibility of the government in a time of surpluses to instigate progressive, long-range policies. What the Conservatives have given us so far is absurdly vague and lacks imagination. Let’s hope the budget shows something of substance: until then let’s let Herard know we actually give a shit about the future of university education, for once.

Don’t look at all the lovely people

There’s a place for beautiful boys and girls—but it isn’t here at university



KELSEY TANASIUK

There I was, comfortably seated in my sociology class just minding my own business, when my professor wandered down the aisle. It was then that I caught him out of the corner of my eye—the blonde. I sat there in a daze, as if struck with a frying pan to the temple, admiring his beauty from afar. Suddenly that rude little voice in the back of my head gently reminded me, “Hey dumbass! Class! Remember?”

Snapping back to reality, I attempted to focus my attention on our professor’s explanation of why humans developed opposable thumbs. Despite my best efforts, however, I still spend a vast majority of my class time sneaking glances at this adorable sweater-clad specimen. I have this problem in most of my classes, which brings me to the point of this article: attractive people shouldn’t be allowed in university.

Okay, I realize this may seem a little crazy, but bear with me a moment—I’ve put some careful thought into this claim. First of all, attractive people are just too distracting to the rest of us. How am I supposed to concentrate on a Symbolic Logic lecture when a 9.3

on the hottie scale has been registered a mere three seats to my left? It’s hardly my fault I have rampant hormones and the attention span of a goldfish.

Eliminating beautiful people from our university would also cut annoying classroom chatter in half. If students weren’t there to flirt with each other mid-lecture, overall class comprehension would go up ten-fold. Making classes uglier would also make not-taking a much less stressful endeavour.

How am I supposed to concentrate on a Symbolic Logic lecture when a 9.3 on the hottie scale has been registered a mere three seats to my left? It’s hardly my fault I have rampant hormones and the attention span of a goldfish.

Let’s face it: these good-looking people don’t really need education. They can all go on to successful careers of underwear modeling and trophy-wife-dom. It’s us average-to-homely people who need our smarts to get by. I certainly don’t have any *Sports Illustrated*

swimsuit photographers beating down my door with their cameras in hand. I need my Arts degree—otherwise I’d be faced with a future of french fries and Happy Meals.

Think of a famous person, your favourite one—just off the top of your head. Now, I’ll bet 90 per cent of the people reading this thought of someone who’s famous for their looks and not their smarts. Look at Jessica Simpson: does anyone out there think for a second that maybe she has a university education? Of course she doesn’t—because she doesn’t need one. This is the girl who can’t determine fish from chicken, yet people still idolize her.

That isn’t to say that *only* beautiful people are idolized—they just come by it easier. Take Gandhi. Not exactly the most attractive guy, right? And think of all the crazy stunts he had to pull to get noticed, all that hunger-striking and such: he totally did it for the chicks.

Now I realize that completely eliminating attractive people from campus may seem a little extreme—Nazi-esque perhaps—so I am going to propose a compromise. Any beautiful person wishing to attend this university should de-hottify themselves. Stop washing your hair, dress like a hobo, reek of body odour and replace your facial cleansers with bacon grease. This will help create a better campus society—perhaps not visually, but academically at least. Repent, beautiful people! Repent for the good of our grades!

America’s funniest Republican home videos

Some smug Canadians lampoon the most outrageous attack ads in anticipation of today’s congressional mid-term elections in the US



Today’s a big day for our neighbours to the South, as voters in the spectator democracy that is the US of A get to feel important for a while by voting on who will control the House and Senate in Washington, DC.

As fascinating as this election’s results will be, however, the most compelling aspect for impartial observers like us is the ruthless campaigning that leads up to such heated and polarized politicking. Republicans and Democrats alike have been facing off on TV and other media for weeks now, with no topic too controversial and no skeleton too deep in the closet with which to manipulate public opinion. Our panel of self-appointed experts examines the best of the worst.

Ramin Ostad

I’d have to pick Pennsylvania Republican Senator Rick Santorum’s ironic and more-than-slightly ridiculous ad, which features Rick in the middle of a wrestling ring. Mr Santorum interrupts what seems to be a tornado-tag match—in an attempt to appeal to that crucial “toothless redneck” voter base—to discuss the many policies he’s put in place during his term, including making references to his work with

Hillary Clinton’s Anti-Violent-Video-Game initiative. Then he punches a guy in the face.

I find this a little odd, since back in June he was one of three senators on hand as the Entertainment Software Rating Board rolled out its new “Commitment to Parents” program. Still, I *would* be flattered that Rick was so inspired by my wrestling-and-politics article from two years ago—which he undoubtedly read and which he uses to imply that Democrats are all body-slamming bullies in peak physical condition—if only it wasn’t a totally inaccurate description of his political opposition. The part I find most amusing about this is that the wrestlers and the referee seem to be genuinely offended by what Rick is saying—unlike his constituents, who have forgotten about him all together.

Jonn Kmech

I’d have to say that any of Vernon Robinson’s attack ads are currently the most ludicrous. His *Twilight Zone* ad has Robinson doing his best Rod Sterling impersonation and features Islamic terrorists, raging homosexuals kissing and holding “God is a Dyke” signs, and liberal judges killing millions of babies per year. These American problems are all clearly due to the presence of Robinson’s incumbent opponent, Democrat Brad Miller, in North Carolina’s 13th District.

Another disgusting ad—and which has been thoroughly debunked by FactCheck.org—has Robinson accusing Miller of cutting funding for Army

body armour and using it to study “the sex lives of Vietnamese prostitutes” and “the masturbation habits of old men,” as well as spending taxpayer dollars to “pay teenage girls to watch pornographic movies with probes connected to their genitalia.” His latest offering claims Miller voted to allow illegal aliens to burn and trample the American flag, as sufficiently Latino-looking people climb fences, flip off the camera, grab their crotches and generally invade in the background. His ads require little commentary; they’re hilariously exaggerated, completely misleading (the studies he mentioned were all studies on sexual health), and sink into the very bigotry and depravity Robinson claims to be against.

Patrick Ross

Although they sometimes manage to surprise us (hello, Mark Foley!), the Republicans are pretty predictable. Case in point: it’s election season, and once again the Grand Old Party has trotted out the bogeyman that is Osama bin Laden for one of its newest ads, designed specifically to scare people into voting for the Republicans in the forthcoming mid-term elections. Numerous images of Osama bin Laden, terrorist training camps and shots of Islamic extremists are shown, with various bin Laden quotes superimposed against it: “kill the Americans”; “inside America”; “suitcase bombs”; “nothing compared to what you will see next.” All the while, a ticking is heard in the background, growing ever louder. As this supposed time bomb abruptly stops,

the words, “These are the stakes,” appear on screen.

It’s an unsettling ad—fearmongering at its worst (or at its best, depending on your point of view). As shocking as it is, however, it’s actually a re-hashing of a 1964 ad in which a little girl is shown innocently plucking the petals off of a daisy. As she counts, her voice is eventually replaced with a man’s voice counting down toward a nuclear explosion. A man’s voice then announces, “These are the stakes: to make a world in which all of God’s children can live, or to go into the dark.” The original aired only once, but it has been promised the sequel will air many times more than that.

Paul Knoechel

The most hilariously offensive ad that I’ve had the pleasure to see this election is the attack ad against Harold Ford put out by the Republican National Committee.

This little 30 second slander spot is impressive in that it’s able to jam so many conservative attacks into it. In a flashy, PowerPoint-ish ad, Ford is accused of taking cash from porn moguls, supporting gay marriage, advocating abortion, and even of trying to “put the abortion pill in the hands of our children” (among others).

Now, part of me loves this because some of these “attacks” would actually be something a Canadian politician would campaign under. But the best part is that last shot, where the poor, slutty school girl is being assaulted by the massive mountain of abortion pills

Ford is attempting to force upon her. It’s like Kang so diplomatically said on *The Simpsons*: “Abortions for all!”

Adam Gaumont

The most ridiculous attack ad that I found by searching YouTube for ten minutes was the so-called “black Republicans” ad, which features the voice-over of a couple of sassy sistas chatting (in the classically cheesy information-dumping style) about how the Republican party has always been so good to blacks in the US. The central narrator manages to rattle off a long list of examples that prove that the GOP has historically been better to blacks: they abolished slavery; they started the NAACP and affirmative action; they included Martin Luther King in their ranks. By the end, the second interlocutor remarks that it “sounds like Democrats have bamboozled blacks.”

Alright, so Babe-raham Lincoln was a Republican, and so the “Third-Party System” of 1854, composed as it was of Whigs, “Free-Soilers,” and *Northern Democrats*, came up with that bit about emancipating and proclaiming. But saying that this centuries-old group of progressive nationalists shares the same platforms and beliefs as the war-mongering propagandists in power today is akin to suggesting that the Colonel himself will fry you up some chicken if you head to KFC. The only people being bamboozled here are the eleven per cent of black Americans who actually bought into this crap and voted for Bush last election. Here’s hoping they don’t make the same mistake again.



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Defending field hockey champs fail to medal

BORIS KORBY
The Ubysey

VANCOUVER—The 2005 national champion Alberta was the better team Sunday morning in the bronze medal match of the CIS women's field hockey championships, but will have nothing to show for their efforts after a 2-1 loss on penalties to the second-seeded University of Toronto at Wright Field in Vancouver.

After regulation play and two overtimes, the Pandas found themselves in penalty strokes at the national tournament for the second consecutive year. After scoring on their first two attempts, the sticks went cold for Alberta, who missed their final two, and lost 4-2.

"I thought we played quite well today," Alberta head coach Carla Somerville said on Sunday. "I thought we possessed the ball very well and generated more than enough opportunities to win this game, but unfortunately it wasn't our day to put the ball in the net."

After tying 2-2 in round-robin play the night before, Alberta and Toronto picked up where they left off Sunday, playing an even opening half that saw the teams tied 0-0 after 35 minutes. The second frame began with more of the same, with neither team managing to generate much in the way scoring opportunities.

Toronto got on the scoreboard first, striking in the 62nd minute on an amazing solo effort by forward Cailie O'Hara, who managed to slip by three Alberta defenders, come out of the corner, and beat Alberta's sprawling Sara Houlihan low to stake the Ontario University Athletics champions to a 1-0 lead.

Toronto's goal seemed to spark the lethargic Alberta attack, who responded by dominating the final eight minutes of the second half. The Pandas were ultimately rewarded in the 70th



OKER CHEN, THE UBYSEY

NEW CHAMPS UBC (dark) defeated Victoria to take the McCrae cup and become the 2006 CIS field hockey champions. Alberta finished fourth.

minute when second-year defender Danielle Barron scored of a perfectly executed short corner to draw Alberta even.

"I think we really felt some urgency," Barron said. "We just didn't want to lose this game, it was just so important to us."

"It was a great thing to see, we got a bit little pissed off [after Toronto's goal] and we started to take it to them," Somerville said. "We really needed to do that earlier, and if we'd come out at the beginning of the game like that, I don't think

this game would have been in question, so absolutely a very disappointing loss in that regard.

It was an unlucky ending for an Alberta squad that managed to claw its way back into medal contention with a victory over York and a draw against Toronto after dropping its first two matches of the tournament to perennial rivals and tournament favourites UVic and UBC. It was fitting for a team that couldn't find a way to beat either of their conference rivals in regular season play this season. All three of their wins came against Calgary.

"We didn't get a result against either UBC or Victoria, and it was hard emotionally to come back from that, but we got ourselves into the bronze medal game," said Somerville, who was named CIS coach of the Year for the second straight time.

"It was a really tough tournament, it was a lot of fun, but it was hard work," Barron added. "UVic and UBC are very strong teams, and we knew it was definitely going to be hard to repeat."

Pandas give 'Pack, 'Cades not-so-warm welcome

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Staff

So much for being hospitable hosts.

The Pandas basketball team went one-on-one with the two newest teams in CIS women's basketball this past weekend and showed them just how harsh life is in the nation's toughest basketball conference.

Interim head coach Scott Edwards' squad needed only 20 minutes to blow the gates open in their Friday night matchup against the Thompson Rivers WolfPack, as the Pandas turned an early ten-point lead into a 54-17 halftime hole that the Kamloops squad, in their second season in CIS, couldn't dig their way out of.

With the game well out of reach, Edwards kept his starters involved, leaving them in the rotation until the final minutes of the fourth quarter. At the conclusion of the 98-49 trouncing, WolfPack head coach Scott Reeves refused comment on the game.

"Well, [Scott Edwards] came to play and I'm glad he did," WolfPack assistant coach Chuck Ferguson offered in his place. "I would have been offended if he had taken it easy on us. He came to play and that's the way it should be."

On Saturday night, the Pandas were a part of history—albeit an inauspicious part of it—as they handed the University College of Fraser Valley Cascades their first road-sweep of their inaugural season in CIS, finishing off the job that the Saskatchewan Huskies started on Friday night.

After a strong start on Friday night, the Pandas struggled with the Cascades, who were led by the stellar play of guard tandem Megan McAlister and Michelle Buhler. The two third-year Abbotsford products combined for 38 points, nine assists and seven steals, while they attempted to throw

a wrench in the Pandas' execution.

"They're good players. Buehler's a fantastic point guard, and McAlister is a great shooter, she's really quick. They did really well together and they did a great job against us," Edwards said of the backcourt he coached against for two seasons in the Canadian Collegiate Athletics Association.

While the Cascades looked to build on their three-point halftime lead, third-year Pandas Kristen Jarock, Ashley Wigg and Nathalie Kiernan took control of the game. Wigg came out on the offensive to start the third, driving to the hoop at will, collecting six of her 13 points in the quarter. Kiernan showed her shooting touch, padding to her team best 15 points, while Jarock did a little bit of everything, going for 14 points and grabbing ten rebounds, good for her second double-double of the weekend. Alberta's 18-8 third quarter put the game out of reach for the Cascades, who fell to the Pandas 74-66.

"They're third-years now, and they've played a ton of basketball together in their time here," Edwards said of Jarock, Wigg and Kiernan. "They've seen everything that this conference can offer them and they know how to compete in big moments. They're good at finding ways to win when we don't really have our legs, like tonight."

As effective as the trio was, the night belonged to Jarock. Named a second-team Canada West all-star for her strong post play last season, the 6'0" forward drove and dished to open teammates, in addition to showcasing a newly-found extended range that was absent from her game in previous seasons.

"Playing the four [power forward], it's kind of an advantage to be able to take it to the hole. I think I'm quicker than most power forwards, so I use that to my advantage," Jarock said.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

HIGH PRESSURE Carly McLennan (8) and her teammates ran TRU off the court on Friday night.



ANDREW RINISLAND, THE GAUNTLET

GOING TO SCORE Trinity Western dispatched of Alberta in the semis and Calgary in the final to win Canada West.

Soccer Bears blow unbeaten record with playoff losses

JANELLE SLOYCHUK
Sports Writer

As the final whistle blew Sunday afternoon, the University of Alberta Golden Bears strode off the Foote Field as quickly as they had entered on Saturday. Not because it was mercilessly cold for soccer uniform requirements, which it was, but because the Bears immaculate season was left in shambles after suffering their first two losses and a last place finish in the Canada West men's soccer championships this weekend.

The Trinity Western Spartans, who have proven to be a thorn in Alberta's side all season, shut out the Bears on Saturday with 2-0 victory, and while the top-seeded Bears out-shot the Spartans, it was the Spartan's consistency that ultimately determined the final score.

"We've played well this season; we've just done it in spurts," Trinity Western head coach Al Anderson said. "The nice thing about [Saturday] is that we did it for 90 minutes, which in a playoff game, really matters."

TWU's Stefan Leslie, who was also named Canada West Rookie of the Year, slotted the first goal past Alberta's Dan Gusberti with another

to follow by Adrian Kekec. While the intensity of play didn't falter for either team, Anderson credits his team's win on the fact that Alberta had a bye into the CIS championships next weekend.

"The real difference between the two teams was that at the end of the day, we needed this win, Alberta did not," Anderson said. "[Alberta's] playing a team with their backs completely against the wall. We had to give a good performance and that's how it played out [Saturday]."

"We wanted to earn the right as opposed to getting there through the back door."

**LEN VICKERY,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH**

"We knew it was going to be a tough game. It's a fine line between excellence and just being truly competitive," Alberta head coach Len Vickery said. "[TWU] found a little bit of inspirational play and we were found wanting in that regard. I believe

we left things to chance and unfortunately the chances were not in our favour."

Though Saturday's score was a tough one to swallow for the Bears, UBC added insult to injury by overtaking the Bears with a tie-breaking goal in the final minute of Sunday's bronze-medal game.

Trinity Western, who buried Calgary in a 4-1 victory for the gold medal, will carry on to the CIS Championship this weekend, along with the Dinos. The Bears will join them as host organization, instead of the number one ranked team as they would have liked.

"You always like to carry a little bit of momentum into a national finals right from day one," Vickery said. "We wanted to earn the right as opposed to getting there through the back door."

For Vickery however, this past weekend's disappointment doesn't forecast how the team will play at nationals.

"They need to put the experience of this weekend behind them," he said. "By the same token, they should learn from this past weekend. They're going to have to up the ante a little bit on inspirational play and, of course, all the truisms in sport have to come to the forefront; our best players need to be our best players."

Morrison regaining form after attack

MUGGING ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was concerned about not their physical—they looked alright physically other than CG had a big lump on his head and his eye was closed—but psychologically, how they're going to deal with the fact that they're both from BC, their parents think they're in a safe environment and now their parents are going to know that they've been beat up on Whyte Avenue," Horwood said.

Horwood also noted that the incident could damage the team's recruiting in BC. Six of the Bears new recruits hail from the western-most province, joining veteran BC transplants Scott Gordon and Harvey Bradford. Horwood coached high school basketball in Victoria before joining Alberta.

"We recruit in Victoria. We recruit in Vancouver. If parents out there hear,

'Shit, if you go to the University of Alberta and you might get beat up or shot in a nightclub.' They're not going to know that [Whyte Ave and the Red Light Lounge] aren't the same thing," Horwood explained.

Despite Horwood's reservations, Morrison has no problems with the city, though it's a far cry from his Victoria roots.

"I'm not worried about the city or anything. I still feel comfortable," he said. "I love [Edmonton] so far. I've never been in cold weather like this before, but everything else I love."

Horwood also expressed concern over Morrison's ability to return to the form that saw him earn the starting point guard spot in the preseason and put up big numbers in exhibition tournaments.

"CG was a tournament all-star the

week before down in Calgary. This weekend we're in Saskatchewan—these are really important games—he missed last weekend's play coming off a weekend he played really well. How quickly is he going to get back to where he was?" Horwood said. "Is this going to take a little bit more time, what does it do to his confidence now that he has to reassimilate himself? That's my only concern [about Morrison]."

"It just took me a good day in practice to get comfortable with all the guys, and I felt good today," Morrison added after Monday's workout with the team. "I feel good. It's getting better every day. The swelling has gone down, so [all that's left is] slowly easing my way back into things and I was able to go pretty full-out today."



Ever since he was little, Rem Murray wanted to be a hockey player.



Ever since he was little, Ross Prusakowski wanted to be a firetruck.

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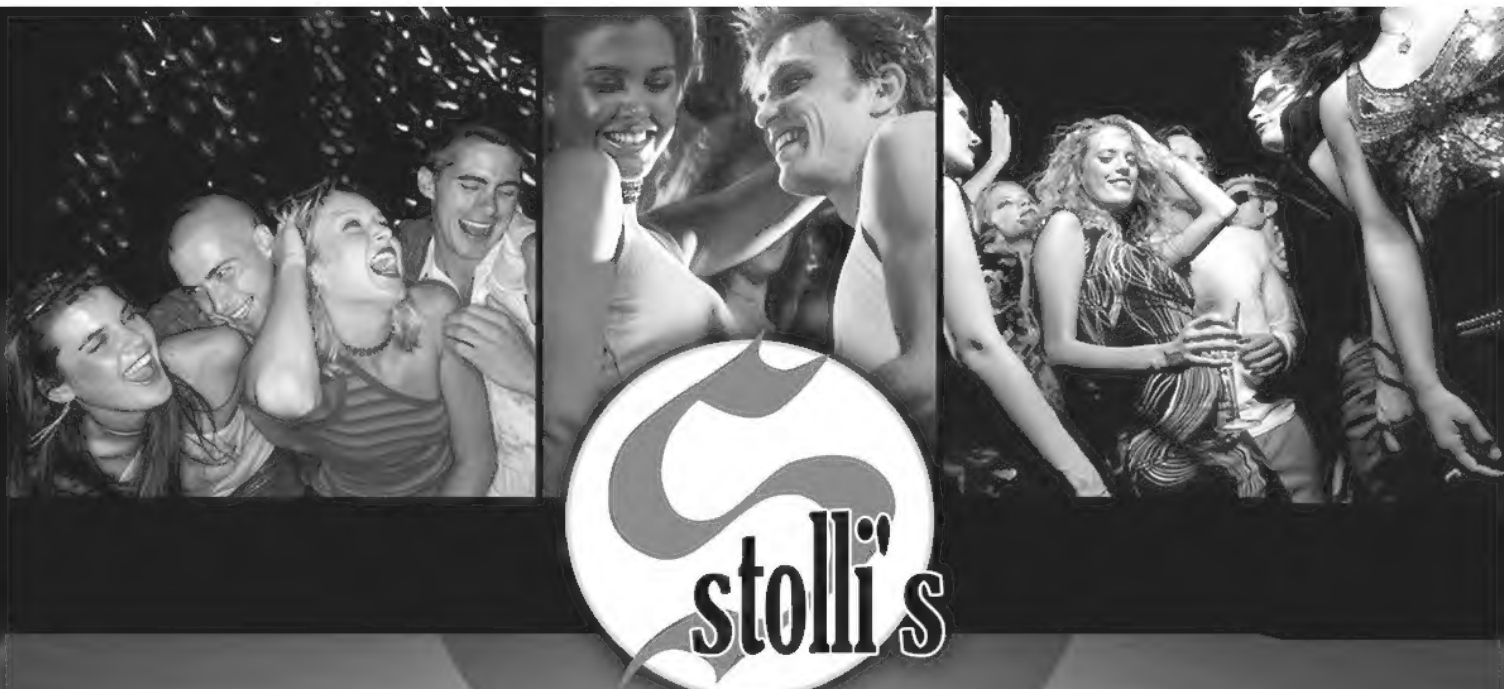
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